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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Situation in East Timor

Note by the secretariat

ADDENDUM

GE.94-13450 (E)

Comments by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on the adoption of a Chairman's consensus statement on the human rights situation in East Timor by the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights

1. On 9 March 1994, at its fiftieth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted by consensus a statement by the Chairman on the human rights situation in East Timor.

2. Indonesia appreciates the non-confrontational approach that has led to the consensus regarding the statement. Throughout the process of consultation and negotiation, which has been characterized by goodwill and frankness, the interested delegations, namely the European Union Troika, Portugal and Indonesia, have had opportunities to present cases and clarify points and hence to improve mutual understanding on the overall problem and on the crucial issues involved. It is the hope of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia that this improved understanding can be maintained as a useful background which should give a positive and constructive spirit to the letter of the statement.

3. The Chairman's statement is a consensus statement, which embodies a package of commitments of the membership of the Commission and all concerned government observers, in particular Portugal. The Government of the Republic of Indonesia is doing its best to respect the consensus, and it would only be fair to expect that all others, including Portugal, will also honour and sincerely observe the statement in its entirety.

4. Indonesia is encouraged by the recognition in the Chairman's statement of the positive measures it has taken to improve the human rights situation in East Timor, including the acknowledgement of its efforts to account for those persons still unaccounted for as a result of the Dili violent incident of 12 November 1991, and the greater access it has granted to human rights and humanitarian organizations, as well as to the international media.

5. Being a collective expression of the Commission, the Chairman's statement represents a powerful and eloquent rebuttal of the unsubstantiated allegations made by some quarters who still deem fit to paint overdramatized pictures of the human rights situation in East Timor.

6. It is the sincere hope of the Government of Indonesia that the Chairman's consensus statement will have a positive impact on the efforts to find a lasting solution to the problem of East Timor, in particular the talks between the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General.

Geneva, 29 July 1994